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At the beginning of the present century a language renovation movement was started and led for several decades by Johannes Aavik. The aim of his campaign was to develop Estonian to the level and flexibility of the major languages. To enrich the Estonian speech he created many artificial words, proposed numerous morphological and syntactical innovations and urged writers to use them. A number of them have been accepted by the literary language but more have been rejected. Aavik also proposed a new word order to replace the old German-like word order, and a liberal borrowing from Finnish and Estonian dialects. This new order has been commonly accepted and, also, many Finnish dialectal words have come into use. The latter trend was more thoroughly effected during Estonian independence by

814 Johannes V. Veski, whose innovations were
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● influenced mainly by the principles of suitability and tradition. He created thousands of new words, adding suffixes or forming compounds chiefly from words in the various Estonian dialects, for various scientific dictionaries which were published during the independence period. Veski also was the editor of the Dictionary of Estonian Orthography, which was finished by Elmar Muuk. Muuk compiled a smaller edition of this dictionary for school use. Both these works were officially recognized and still are standard dictionaries of the Estonian language, used in all schools, as well as by many publishers.

195 Due to the intensive work of such men as
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these, the Estonian literary language has been highly developed and finally standardized during

1[See cat. 116, pp. 102-105-105-4, Analyst]

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Almost the same characteristics are applicable to the present-day language spoken by the older as opposed to the younger generation.

Younger people use more innovations and a newer vocabulary in their spoken language but especially in their writings, which are sometimes overcrowded with new morphemes.

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Toward the end of the 1930's the rush to revise the language began to slow down, but there were already by this time a large number of changes to be assimilated and learned. During the occupation some new words and slogans have been borrowed, especially from Russian. Some tendency to Russianization is noticeable in the replacement of well-established Estonian words by Russian loan words, e. g., Est. tänav 'street'

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with uulits, Russ. ulitsa, etc. Since the end of independence there have not been any

193 noticeable innovations in the Estonian morphology and syntax.

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Some General Expressions in
Estonian

Hello, Mr. Smith

Tere, härra Smith

Good morning,
Mrs. Smith

Tere hommikust,
proua Smith

Good afternoon, good
evening, Miss Smith

Tere õhtust, preili
Smith

How are you?

Kuikas käsi käib?

Quite well, thank you

Tänan, päris hästi

And how are you,
Mr. Kask?

Ja kuidas teie käsi käib,
härra Kask?

Very fine, thank you
very much

Suur tänu, väga hästi

Let me introduce myself
to you

Lubage mul end esit-
leda

My name is Johnson

Minu nimi on Johnson

Pleased to meet you

Väga rõõmustav

192 Do you smoke?

Kas te suitsetate?

No, thanks, I don't
smoke

Ei, tänan, ma ei
suitseta

Won't you sit down?

Kas to ei võtaks istet?

Can't stay any longer

Ma ei saa kauemaks
jääda

See you again

Nägemiseni

Good night

Head ööd

Good morning, afternoon

Head päeva

Good-bye

Jumalaga (with God)

Kind regards to your wife,
husband

Tervitaga oma abikaa-
sat

Thank you so much

Tänan väga

Today is Monday

Täna on esmaspäev

Sunday

pühapäev

Tuesday

teisepäev

Wednesday

kolmapäev

Thursday

neljapäev

192 Friday

reede

Saturday

laupäev

What languages do you
speak?

Mis keeli to kõnelete
(räägite)?

I speak Estonian, Finnish,
German, English, Russian
and French

Ma kõnelen eesti,
soome, saksa, inglise,
vene ja prantsuse
keelt

Speak slowly, please

Kõnelge aeglaselt,
palun

I am American; Estonian;
German etc.

Ma olen ameeriklane,
eestlane, sakslane,
jne.

Sorry

Vabandust. Vabandage

Excuse me for a moment

Vabandage mind het-
keks

I am very sorry

Mul on väga kahju

I must apologize

Pean vabandust pal-
uma

I am very sorry to
trouble you

Vabandage, et teid
tülitän

• 192 I want to go to Tartu	Ma tahan Tartu sõita
How far is Tartu from Tallinn?	Kui palju maad on Tallinnast Tartu?
One hundred ninety-six kilometers	Sada üheksakümmend kuus kilomeetrit
Where is the ticket office?	Kus on piletikassa?
Single to Tartu, please	Palun Tartu, üks ots
A dinner, please	Palun lõunasöök
A supper, please	Palun õhtusöök
A cup of coffee and a roll, please	Palun tass kohvi ja üks sai
What must I pay?	Kui palju mul on maksta?
Have you any cigarettes?	Kas teil on sigarette?

Some slogans which came into use with the
Soviet Occupation

National in form and Social-
istic in substance

Vormilt rahvuslik,
sisult sotsialistlik

•192 A Bolshevik knows not the
word impossible

Bolshevik ei tunne
sõna võimatu

Like the chairman of the
kolkhoz, so is the kolkhoz

Missugune on kolk-
hoosi esimees, niisu-
gune on ka kolhoos

The property of the kolk-
hoz must be guarded like
one's eye

Kolhoosi vara tuleb
hoida kui silmatera

Some new words which came into use with
the Soviet Occupation

artell

artel, collective of
workers

eesrindlik

progressive

Eesti Nõukogude Sotsia-
litlik Vabariik (ENSV)

Estonian Soviet Soc-
ialist Republic (ESSR)

kaader

cadre, personnel

kodanlik natsionalism

bourgeois nationalism

kolhoos

kolkhoz, collective
farm; from Russ.
abbrev.

●/92 komnoor

Communist youth

kulak

usually means big farm owners who used hired help (Russian loan word)

küüditamine

deportation

metsavend

forest brother, guerilla

miilits

militia

paap

clergyman (derogatory term)

plaanimajandus

planned economy

plaanitäitmine

fulfilling of the plan

poliitosakond

political department

rahyavaenlane

enemy of the people

rajoon

region; an administrative unit created by Soviets in Estonia in 1950. Instead of the former 13 counties there are 39 regions.

seltsimees

comrade

192	sotsialistlik võistlus	Socialist competition
	sovhoos	sovkhoz, state farm; from Russ. abbrev.
	stahhanovlane	stakhanovist; a worker who tries to surpass the plan
	Suur kodumaa	the Great Home Country (U. S. S. R.)
	Suur Oktoobri Revolutsioon	The Great October Revolution
	täitevkomitee	executive committee
	traktorijaam	tractor station
	ülestõus	uprising
	ülemnõukogu	the Supreme Soviet
	välg-miiting	lightning meeting

SOURCES

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